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AUTHOR Wagner, Joyce A.
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ABSTRACT

Five quarterly issues of the publication, "Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society" were examined in a citation analysis format to determine trends in Women's Studies scholarship. A total of 1,927 citations were reviewed to ascertain: the nature of the sources cited; the author's alternate field of interest in addition to Women's Studies; the current topics being covered; the most cited journals; and the currency of the materials cited. The study revealed a great deal of diversity in current Women's Studies issues and in the cross disciplines of the article authors. Authors with cross disciplines in literature were represented most often with approximately 22% of the articles being from literary scholars. Sociology with 19% and history with 10% were the second and third most published scholars. While many diverse topics were covered, issues in literature, history, and sociology were the most often published which parallels the authors' fields of additional interests. Newly published materials received the greatest percentage of references. Approximately 37% of the citations were from the most recent five year period. Almost 12% of the references were from 1970 and earlier which was unexpected in a relatively young discipline. "Signs" was the most often cited journal, a fact that remained consistent with earlier studies. Books were the most frequently cited materials, used 44% of the time, with journals and university presses being the next most used materials with approximately 22% of the citations each. Women's Studies scholars require a great deal of different type of materials for their studies and write on topics of general interest to other scholars. A core collection of Women's Studies materials, therefore, appears to be beneficial to all types of libraries. (Contains 16 references.) (Author)

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ENHANCING INFORMATION ACCESS THROUGH EXPANDING USE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES MATERIALS

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library and Information Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library and Information Science

by

Joyce A. Wagner

August, 1997

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Master's Research Paper by

Joyce A. Wagner

B. S., Lake Erie College, 1992

M.L.S., Kent State University, 1997

Approved by

Adviser Lees Battles Date 6-6-97

ABSTRACT

Five quarterly issues of the publication *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* were examined in a citation analysis format to determine trends in Women's Studies scholarship. A total of 1927 citations were reviewed to ascertain the nature of the sources cited, the author's alternate field of interest, in addition to Women's Studies, the current topics being covered, the most cited journals, and the currency of the materials cited. The study revealed a great deal of diversity in current Women's Studies issues and in the cross disciplines of the article authors. Authors with cross disciplines in literature were represented most often with approximately 22% of the articles being from literary scholars. Sociology with 19% and history with 10% were the second and third most published scholars. While many diverse topics were covered, issues in literature, history, and sociology were the most often published which parallels the authors' fields of additional interests. Newly published materials received the greatest percentage of references. Approximately 37% of the citations were from the most recent five year period. Surprisingly, almost 12% of the references were from 1970 and earlier which was unexpected in a relatively young discipline such as Women's Studies. *Signs* was the most often cited journal, a fact that remained consistent with earlier studies. Books were the most frequently cited materials, used 44% of the time, with journals and university presses being the next most used materials with approximately 22% of the citations each. Women's Studies scholars require a great deal of different types of materials for their studies and write on topics of general interest to other scholars. A core collection of Women's Studies materials, therefore, appears to be beneficial to all types of libraries.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

Women's Studies is a highly complex subject area that is often difficult to define. The Hunter College Women's Studies Collective in an introductory text book states that Women's Studies is "both a complement and a correction to established disciplines and a new academic discipline of its own."[1] The interdisciplinary nature of this subject, while making it nearly impossible to define clearly, makes it an important source of information for several other areas of study.

Academic libraries supporting Women's Studies departments may make an adequate effort to support this discipline, but often libraries not directly supporting this type of a program fail to realize how broad a group of subject areas are being missed or how many users would benefit from a readily available source of current information in the field of Women's Studies. Pritchard in her 1987 study determined that women's issues have become a major focus of public policy at every level and that Women' Studies information is sought by a variety of users. She identified the fact that traditional users such as students, women's groups, and feminist activists use this type of information as often as community groups, businesses and the media.[2]

When one considers that women still comprise the highest percentage of library users, as shown in recent studies such as the one by King,[3] the importance of women centered information cannot be stressed enough. All of the needs of these women whether

recreational, educational, vocational, health, or family issues could be defined as a form of Women's Studies.

The concentration of usage by women coupled with the interdisciplinary nature of the discipline calls for a clearer understanding of current issues and scholars in the field for the purpose of collection development. In a discipline as new and as rapidly changing as Women's Studies, periodicals in the field must be examined to determine the most current information available to library users. Potentially, the benefits of a citation analysis in Women's Studies is to determine the collection needs of scholars in the field.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to determine the needs of Women's Studies scholars in terms of both nature and variety of materials used. The study will take a snapshot look at the current topics and scholars in the field. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive core bibliography to use for collection development; others have effectively completed that task. Instead, its intention is to show the diversity of subject matter currently being explored by this discipline and its relevance to the collection of information by users in other disciplines. Specifically, questions to be considered will concern the type of materials cited, the currency of the materials, the specific journals currently being cited, the topics being covered by the articles, and the fields of interest of the authors of the articles examined. It is hoped that the study will present an overview of the current needs of Women's Studies scholars. If the current topics being researched overlap with other disciplines, the study might serve as a guideline for when Women's Studies collections might prove valuable to scholars in other fields. For libraries that

currently do not include a Women's Studies collection, this study may serve as an aid to further investigation into developing a core collection. It may also aid librarians in assisting patrons toward other avenues of research that would expand the recall of their users' searches by adding new items. These items which add a woman's perspective to a subject will give the user a new dimension to the topic being examined.

Definition of Terms

Many definitions exist for Women's Studies. When *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* was first published, the editor stated that the purpose of signs was to represent the emergence of Women's Studies which she saw as "the new thinking about women, sexuality, sex roles, the social institutions in which the sexes have participated, the culture men and women have inherited, inhabited, and created"[4] By the Summer of 1996 the definition was modified to include "areas of scholarship...in newly emergent fields relevant to women and culture as well."[5] The discipline had broadened and become more diverse including cross-disciplinary topics. All definitions of Women's Studies materials have the common theme of being about women, for women, from a women's viewpoint, or about an experience unique to the gender (i.e. childbirth). The focus has changed somewhat over the years, but the emphasis remains on women's contributions and experiences.

The discipline developed from a need to encourge women's scholarship that had not been taken seriously. Few women were published before the twentith century.

Author's such as Jane Austin hid their writings from family and friends. Even when women were published, it was often under male psudonyms such as Isaac Denison (Baroness Karen Billion), George Eliot (Marian Evens), and George Sand (Amantine-Lucile-Aurore Gudevant). Many women's letters, diaries, and journals which held first hand accounts of history never were studied or published until the women's movement emphasized the importance these works. It is this type of material and other writings by and about women and their experiences that add diversity to history, literature, and scholarship.

Therefore, while the purpose of Women's Studies may be "to enable women to become authorities on their own lives; to construct their own knowledge about women according to their criteria as women; (and) to empower themselves through knowledge making"[6], it is the broad scope of the field and its diversity which distinguish it. History has proven that a singularity of viewpoints often leads to errors in thought. After all it was the singularity of thought during the Victorian era that allowed "science which produced proof that women were not as intellectually competent (as men), and that if educated, their brains would burst and their uteruses atrophy."[7]

The definition of Women's Studies, therefore, is in a state of constant evolution. No one precise or exact definition exists. The emphasize of the discipline is on presenting an alternate point of view, one that stresses inclusion rather than exclusion. For the purpose of this paper, therefore, any work which is by women, about women, from a women's viewpoint, concerning issues of importance to women, or about an experience unique to women shall be considered as included in Women's Studies materials.

CHAPTER II.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies have been conducted concerning both women's library and information needs and the establishing of Women's Studies collections. Pritchard in her 1987 study found that women's issues were emerging as a major focus of public policy at every level. While the field of study began as an outgrowth of a political and social movement, the academic field went on to raise practical and theoretical issues concerning women's contributions which challenged the implication of policies and interpretations based on inadequate research which included the status and contribution of women. She went on to suggest that all libraries need collections diverse enough to support these needs and to increase the awareness of the user as to the value of information concerning women's viewpoints, experiences, and contributions to society as a whole. Some of the most current quality information, she felt, could be found in collections of group proceedings and newsletters from small university presses with modest subscription fees.[8]

A 1995 survey of library users done by King showed that women continue to use libraries more than men for general uses. She identified five specific categories of women's usage: traditional needs (i.e. needlework), practical information for maintaining a home, information relating to changes (i.e. returning to work or school), health issues, and information concerning parenting. She found that these needs were expressed as being urgent and continuing . King identified two issues she considered critical. First, the users and the topics they requested accounted for the majority of requests in the public libraries

studied. Secondly, these topics were seldom covered in professional literature or in courses in library schools. King concluded that these users and subjects were not considered to be scholarly enough to generate research and this exclusion led to a similar exclusion in library curriculum.[9] These omissions coupled with the significance of women's issues in today's society highlight the need for more emphasis in the field of women centered studies.

A Canadian study conducted by Green concluded that Women's Studies faces ideological and structural difficulties which make the information difficult to find and a low priority for collection additions. The field lacks a comprehensive index for access, which was the problem her group planned to research further, and it is unrecognized for its relevance. Traditionally, libraries have not found the funds for collecting women's materials, nor have they had the funds to properly train staff members. The field itself, being in a constant state of metamorphosis, further compounds the problems of access by having a constantly changing vocabulary and focus. Green found that while 78% of the seekers of Women's Studies information in online data bases were scholars, a significant number of users were seeking information for personal reasons. Of the users surveyed, 71.5% stated that their home library was not able to help them find or direct them to useful information. Green concluded by directing her efforts toward creating a periodical data base for Canadian indexes in an effort to alleviate this access problem.[10]

Koch and Preece conducted a similar study in the United States using table of contents services rather than indexing services. The services they studied represented over one hundred Women's Studies journals which were available through these online data

bases. They also noted the need for a thesaurus of indexing terms, but recognized the frequent changes to acceptable terms within the field. Their results noted that significant retrieval of information could be achieved through the use of a combination of online indexes and table of contents services. This information was interdisciplinary in nature and pointed to the complexity of the field. They also discovered that the majority of articles were written by single authors and, therefore, knowing author's names increased the precision of the searches particularly since there seemed to be no uniform vocabulary to aid one in searching.[11]

The studies of women's information needs have taken many forms. Glover published a study in 1985 stating that one in five American Women were between the ages of 45 to 64, a group she named "women in the middle." This group was growing annually according to statistics and had unique information needs. Glover produced an extensive bibliography for librarians to use in assisting the needs of this group. She identified over fifty topic areas sought by these women.[12] While Glover did not identify her research as being in the field of Women's Studies, every topic identified was women focused; she, therefore, created an early guide to common usage of Women's Studies materials.

A few years later, in 1990, when Mack conducted her study the terminology was well established, but not well defined. Even though Women's Studies programs had been a part of college curriculum since the introduction of the first program of study in 1970, twenty years later, Mack could not find a comprehensive definition of the subject area. The proliferation of scholarly information had grown into an enormous amount of material and the goal of Mack's study was to develop a method that would help libraries collect

and maintain a useful group of core Women's Studies journals. As a test journal, Mack chose *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. *Signs*, first published in 1975, was chosen because of its high regard by scholars in the field, its growing circulation, and its desire to generate scholarly research and opinion based essays. Scholars Mack surveyed recommended this journal for these reasons and because they felt it had mirrored the changing focus in the discipline with its coverage. The citations from this journal were used to create a core list. Prominent Women's Studies faculty members were polled to suggest bibliographies and these lists were compared to citations in *Signs* for a ten year test period. A trend analysis of frequency of citation was then conducted and a core journal list prepared. The results of Mack's survey and citation study proved that *Signs* was a key journal in any Women's Studies collection. She went on to develop her core bibliography of the top twenty journals in the field and to identify the current top eleven subjects being discussed. She defended the use of citation analysis for identifying subjects and scholars in the field as being validated by her accompanying survey results.[13] With the growth of Women's Studies programs and scholarly journals, a more balanced view of the world emerged for the information seeker.

Yet a study by Faries four years later showed that many academic libraries did not have Women's Studies departments or a person in charge of collection development in the field. She found that many were relying on suggestions from publishers which did not handle materials being published by the smaller academic presses which represented the most current work in the discipline. She went on to suggest a rather complex and time consuming evaluation method for libraries to use to evaluate current collections. She

justifies the process because of the myriad of topics Women's Studies encompasses which she feels makes an addition to collections important.[14] Publishing has been an integral part of the expansion of the women's movement. Women's publishing houses which sprang up in the 1970s, university presses, and women journal editors have made the spread of Women's Studies materials possible.[15]

Others have also stressed the importance of building a Women's Studies collection for the benefit of general users. Kaula in a 1990 article stressed the importance of Women's Studies for the reference librarian. She found this to be a neglected area which, she felt, required immediate attention. To her, Women Studies should be defined as an area of study which adds depth to all other areas of study.[16]

Conway et al. found similar results. Although they determined that Women's Studies was nearly impossible to define succinctly, they felt that its importance and multifaceted nature had a dynamic impact on all other studies. They recommended that libraries allocate funds and staff to collection development and expertise in order to provide adequate access to the information available within this field. They found that even universities without a formal Women's Studies department offered courses within other departments that were women centered in nature. The Conway study concluded by recommending a core bibliography of materials for all libraries and by recognizing the scholarly, professional, and personal information needs that a core collection of Women's Studies materials fulfills.[17]

Todd in a book on women and society observed that the way women are depicted in novels often reflects their position in society. Todd also stated that before women

could get their opinions on politics and social issues published as serious works, they published these ideas as fiction, often using pseudonyms. Todd felt, therefore, that fiction and nonfiction collections contained information pertinent to Women's Studies.[18]

The multifaceted nature of Women's Studies seems, therefore, to be well established through research. To determine the method for this current research, studies in the validity of citation analysis were reviewed. In Kelland and Young's study, citation analysis was concluded to be a useful evaluation method for the study of library collections and development. Its limitations not withstanding, it was still found that frequently cited works did have a correlation to expert judgment of a work.[19]

Herubel and Buchanan agreed that citation analysis is a useful tool for identifying the characteristics of a discipline's literature. They also felt that not enough work has been done in the humanities and social sciences in this area. They felt that more work needed to be done to determine the salient features of the scholarly communication, to determine the patterns of usage, and to determine important bibliographic characteristics of the literature.[20]

CHAPTER III.

METHODOLOGY

The journal *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* appeared repeatedly in the suggested bibliographies in the above studies as a standard core Women's Studies journal with a well respected reputation. It was first published in 1975 and is known as a scholarly journal that keeps abreast of the current issues in the discipline. For this reason, and because of its ready availability, *Signs* was chosen as the journal used for this study. The most recent full year (1996) was examined by the method of citation analysis. Since the publication follows an academic calendar, the autumn issue each year is designated as volume one. To examine all of the calendar year of 1996, five issues were examined; Winter, 1996, Spring 1996, Summer 1996, Autumn 1996, and Winter 1997.

The journal contains a mix of scholarly articles, commentaries, and reviews. The scholarly articles and commentaries were reviewed for this study. The articles' citations and small biographical sketches of the authors were examined to answer the following questions:

1. What is the nature of the sources being cited ?
2. What are the authors' cross disciplinary interests in addition to Women's Studies ?
3. What are the current topics being covered in the articles ?
4. What are the current journals being cited ?
5. What is the currency of the materials cited ?

Simple code sheets were used to collect the data. Information gathered was recorded on code sheets for each article and then percentages were calculated. The first time a year, journal name, topic or field of expertise was noted it was entered on a coding sheet. The citations were examined and tic marks were used to note the subsequent references to the appropriate year, journal name, or topic. *Signs* includes short biographical sketches of every article's author in each issue. These sketches include the authors degrees and current job title. These biographies were examined to determine what fields, in addition to Women's Studies, were associated with each author. When listing subjects of articles, titles, introductions and conclusions were examined to determine what heading to use. Words such as "women" and "women in" were not be included in these subject listings as it is implied that all Women's Studies materials are women focused. It is hoped that a subject heading list will emerge that could be used as a guide to remind users when more information could be found on their subject by searching Women's Studies materials. The most frequently cited journals could act as a suggestion for data base searches and collection development . In keeping with the study done earlier by Faries which pointed out the significance of university presses in the development of Women's Studies collections, books published by university presses will be separated into a separate category to determine if there is still a reliance on this type of publishing.

The nature of the items cited and their currency should serve a two fold purpose. First, it should enable librarians to better understand the type of materials and the currency required by Women's Studies scholars. Secondly, it should aid librarians in knowing when

to suggest Women's Studies materials for further research sources for scholars in other fields.

Limitations of the Study

It should be noted that this study is limited to the information derived from one year's publication of one core journal in the field and in no way represents the sum total of knowledge being explored currently in the discipline. The scope is also limited to work being done in the United States, since *Signs* is not an international journal. While thus limited, the validity of *Signs* has been well documented and should provide the intended snap shot of insight into the value of the work currently being done in the field. It is hoped that the study will help validate the need for collecting and consulting Women's Studies materials for a variety of interdisciplinary uses.

CHAPER IV

FINDINGS

A total of one thousand nine hundred twenty-seven (1927) individual citations were examined. The results of this study showed a diverse area of study being explored by women's studies scholars. They use a wide variety of materials for their research, some of it international in scope. Letters, interviews, diaries, and other first hand information sources were cited along with conventional books and periodicals. For a discipline that is relatively new to scholarship, a great number of historic sources are cited along with current information sources.

As Table One illustrates, the dates of the materials cited covered a large range. As expected, current information (published within the last five years) was most often used (approximately 37%of the citations). This emphasizes the need for currency of materials available. As universities have added Women's Studies programs, the research in the field has grown along with the demand for the most current information available to scholars in the field. Information published in the next most recent period, 1986-1990, was the second largest percentage of cited materials (approximately 25% of the citations). This also should not be surprising considering the growth of scholarship in the field during this period. The fact that articles still in press or published in 1996, the year being researched for this study, were cited further emphasizes the need for the most current information available. This might suggest that electronic sources in the future might become of greater importance to Women's Studies scholars as they seek to learn the most current theories

and information being discussed in their field. This need for the latest published data would be expected in an emerging field. The lack of citations for web sites or other Internet addresses was unexpected. The reason for this omission could be the lack of scholarly or in depth information available on-line. It is a topic that warrants further study. The surprise came in the need Women's Studies scholars found for information that predated the field. Nearly 12% of the citations were dated 1970 or earlier, some were from materials published in the 1800s. This emphasizes the need these scholars find for historical data to use in their comparisons and evaluations of current topics. Historical information is traditionally of interest for scholarly research and this relatively young discipline had the same requirements for older materials.

Table One: Publication Years

Date of Cited Item	Number	Percentage
1970 and earlier	222	11.52%
1971-1975	80	4.15%
1976-1980	127	6.59%
1981-1985	301	15.62%
1986-1990	477	24.75%
1991-1995	708	36.74%
1996	8	.42%
In Press	4	.21%
Total	**1927**	**100%**

The articles' authors were involved in twenty-eight separate fields in addition to their expertise in Women's Studies. These fields, as seen in Table Two, covered a wide range of subjects from literature to science. This range demonstrated the number of subjects that may be related to Women's Studies materials. All of the articles followed *Signs* criteria and reflected a woman's experience or relationship to the discussion subject. Of interest was the multicultural nature of the articles. Germany, France, England, China, Japan, and African nations were represented in the published articles along with articles pertaining to many varied segments of the United States population. It appears that the focus of the discipline is reaching outward to include a broader more international view of the experience and condition of women. This trend follows the current interest in multiculturalism seen in many different fields. This multicultural view of the discipline may require more international resources for the scholars to use in their research.

Approximately 22% of the contributing authors to *Signs* during the review period had a specific interest in a form of English literature. This high concentration of interest in literature may reinforce Todd's belief that early information about women in society is often found in literature. A more extensive study would need to be performed to determine if there is a link between an interest in literature and its use in revealing information pertinent to Women's Studies scholars.

The next most common field cited was Sociology with 19% and History following with approximately 10%. The nature of the field of Women's Studies would predict that these two areas would be well represented since the field seeks to clarify a woman's

position in society both past and present. A library would need to be aware of the diversity of scholars that are researching their various fields with a slant towards discovering a woman's experience as it applies to the research topic. The fact that fiction as well as non-fiction is being used by Women's Studies authors for scholarly research is an important point to note. These scholars will require a broad range of fiction, as well as the more traditional non-fiction sources, to aid them in there studies.

Table Two: Article Author Cross Disciplinary Interests

Discipline or Subject Area	Number	Percentage
Literature, English, and Comparative Literature	27	21.43%
Sociology	24	19.05%
History	13	10.32%
Political Science	11	8.73%
African-American Studies	8	6.35%
Fine Arts	6	4.76%
German Studies	5	3.97%
Philosophy	3	2.38%
Law	3	2.38%
Anthropology	3	2.38%
French Studies	3	2.38%
Cultural Studies	2	1.59%
Education	2	1.59%

Activist	2	1.59%
Psychology	1	.793%
Kinesiology	1	.793%
Business	1	.793%
Hawaiian Studies	1	.793%
Media Studies	1	.793%
Russian Studies	1	.793%
Organizational Behavior	1	.793%
Asian-American Studies	1	.793%
Family Studies	1	.793%
Architecture	1	.793%
Urban Studies	1	.793%
American Studies	1	.793%
Slavic Languages	1	.793%
Science and Technology	1	.793%
Total	**126**	**100%**

The fact that *Signs* was the most often referenced periodical (see Table Three) reinforced the importance of this journal in any library collection. It would appear that its status as a premiere journal in the field of Women's Studies remains valid. The fact that it is often referenced by scholars in the field would help to retain its status as a core journal

in the field. *Signs* stood out as the only journal with a significant percentage of citations. The rest of the citations listed a diverse number of journals from a myriad of fields. International journals, law reviews, sociology periodicals, and literary magazines (i.e. the *New York Times Book Review*) were cited. The authors of the reviewed articles obviously found their information in a variety of sources. This fact further complicates the problem of establishing a core collection for Women's Studies scholars. Within the limitations of this study, only *Signs* and *Feminist Studies* emerged as two most often cited core journals for the field. Mack's 1990 study also found these two journals to be in the top twenty cited by professionals. Other sources used were too varied to identify them as core journals. Researchers in this field, it appears, use a wide variety of journals from many disciplines.

Table Three: Referenced Periodicals by Ranked Order of Use
Names are given for those periodicals with three or more references.

Periodical Name	Number	Percentage
Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society	62	14.83%
Feminist Studies	19	4.55%
Late Imperial China	12	2.87%
Hypatia	8	1.91%
Social Text	8	1.91%
differences	7	1.67%
Women's Studies Quarterly	7	1.67%

Feministische Studien	5	1.20%
Stanford Law Review	5	1.20%
Harvard Law Review	4	.96%
Sociology of Sport Journal	4	.96%
Cultural Critique	4	.96%
Women's Studies International Forum	3	.72%
Ethics	3	.72%
Gender and Society	3	.72%
Socialist Review	3	.72%
Genders	3	.72%
New York Times Book Review	3	.72%
Discourse	3	.72%
Subtotal	**166**	**39.75%**
Periodicals with 2 or less references	252	60.25%
Total	**418**	**100%**
The following countries were represented in the cited publications: United States, France, Germany, England, Japan, China, and Indonesia.		

The topics of the articles reviewed further emphasized the diversity of the current scholarship in the discipline of Women's Studies (see Table Four). Literature and African-American history were the topics most often written about. The interest in the African-American experience reflects the trend in the field to look at women in various cultural

groups and study the similarities and differences that ethniticity has on the female experience. The examination of literature is explained by the belief that fiction often mirrors societal norms and when examining a population that was barred from publishing, scholars turn to literature to glimpse at past truths. Some feminists believe that "in literature, we have begun to reclaim our own (women's) histories and our power of naming, our rightful places in histories and lexicons."[21] Feminist literary criticism is considered to be an important part of Women's Studies scholarship. The new emphasis on diversity is apparent in the fact that the literature of other countries was also being explored in the articles examined.

Many of the rest of the topics related to social issues. Many different aspects of American and foreign cultures were explored. Women's Studies as a discipline is still strongly rooted in issues of society and culture. The fact that topics currently being discussed in other fields appeared often in these women focused articles pointed out the relevance that Women's Studies materials have in aiding the work of scholars not in the field. These articles approached current topics from a women centered view point which would add another dimension to the work of scholars researching history or African-American cultural issues, for example.

Women's Studies scholars are beginning to view the narrower vision of women's topics in a broader contest and are looking to expand the boundaries of their knowledge to integrate, share, and teach it to other disciplines.[22] This interdisciplinary nature of the current work being done in Women's Studies gives libraries even more reason to recommend Women's Studies materials to scholars of other disciplines and to realize that

the needs of Women's Studies scholars is expanding. The field is now multi-focused and global in nature.

Table Four: Article Topics

Topic	Number	Percentage
American Literature	6	12.5%
African-American History	6	12.5%
American Society	5	10.4%
Sexual Harassment/Abuse	4	8.3%
Sexuality/Homosexuality	4	8.3%
Sociology	3	6.3%
English Society/Literature	3	6.3%
Early American History	2	4.2%
Russian Culture/Literature	2	4.2%
Gender and the Law	2	4.2%
German Society/Literature	2	4.2%
Sports Journalism	1	2.1%
Arts and Science Education	1	2.1%
Modern Kenya	1	2.1%
19th Century America	1	2.1%
U. S. History - 1960's	1	2.1%
Suffrage	1	2.1%
Hawaiian Nationalism	1	2.1%

Labor Relations	1	2.1%
Chinese Culture	1	2.1%
Total	**48**	**100%**
All of the articles dealt with a women's focus of these topics.		

Table Five is a listing of the types of sources that were cited. Books were cited most often (43.85%) which could be explained by the heavy emphasis on history and literary topics that was found in the articles reviewed. The reliance on academic presses which Faries noted in her study is still evident (21.90%). However, it should be noted that all of the items listed as university press items were books. Faries had found that early scholars in the field were relying on pamphlets and other small publications that only small presses would publish. The emphasis has shifted to the more substantial book format, but Women's Studies authors still rely heavily on university presses to publish their materials.

Journals were the next most frequently cited. With the emphasis on current information, the interest in journals is to be expected. The other categories of materials cited are many and varied. Dissertations, legal documents, conference notes, and pamphlets were some of the diverse materials cited. Pritchard's observation on the use of proceedings, newsletters, and other modest subscriptions still holds true. Missing from the citations, however, were any electronic sources cited which have become more common in other disciplines. More study needs to be conducted to determine if electronic sources do not currently exist to support this discipline or if scholars have not been directed to their use.

Table Five: Materials Cited		
Type	**Number**	**Percentage**
Books	845	43.85%
University Press	422	21.90%
Journals	418	21.70%
Newspapers	63	3.20%
Court Records	51	2.60%
Research and Committee Reports	36	1.90%
Conference Papers	22	1.10%
Government Documents	13	.70%
Historical Pamphlets	11	.60%
Ph.D. Dissertations	11	.60%
Popular Magazines	10	.50%
Letters	10	.50%
Unpublished Manuscripts	5	.30%
Organization Newsletters	5	.30%
Lecture Notes	1	.05%
Interview	1	.05%
Association Notes	1	.05%
BA Dissertation (Africa)	1	.05%
MA Thesis	1	.05%
Total	**1927**	**100%**

Many of the less cited or more obscure sources used by the authors of the articles reviewed could not reasonably be held by many libraries. These specialty items would belong to unique collections and the researcher would have to be led to their existence by others who were aware of the material. However, libraries can be aware of the books, fiction and non-fiction, the emphasis on university presses, and the need for current journal articles. The variety of materials cited points to the fact that many items currently in a collection that may not be considered Women's Studies materials may have value to a scholar in the field.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Women's Studies scholars write about a diverse range of topics, have a wide range of scholarly interests or cross disciplines, and need a large variety of materials to service their research needs. Both current and historic information is of importance to them as is fiction and non-fiction materials. They value literature as a source of the societal portrayal of women, particularly when it is from a time before women were regularly published. University Presses are still very important to Women's Studies scholars and much information cited by them continues to be published at universities. No library can hope to collect the full range of sources used by these researchers, but a core collection of journals, books, and University Press publications are needed for minimum support of the discipline. Research needs to be conducted to determine if electronic sources of information exist for Women's Studies scholars that is comprehensive enough to be valuable for research.

The broadening of the scope of the field is evident in the wide range of disciplinary interests of the authors and the article topics. This emphasizes the relevance traditional Women's Studies materials and current research in the field has for other disciplines. A researcher interested in literary criticism, history, or social issues could certainly benefit from a search of a Women's Studies collection for further insight on the topic being studied. The field has become interdisciplinary in nature. There also appears to be a concern for multicultural studies in the field. Since this topic has become of interest to

many other researchers, the work being done in Women's Studies could add additional information and alternate viewpoints which could expand the knowledge base.

The problem of locating the most current information in the field still remains. The diversity of the research being done and of the researchers themselves makes cataloging Women's Studies materials more difficult each year. For a Women's Studies student looking for current research in the field, an author search, as Koch and Preece suggested in their study, still would be the most useful in improving the precision of a Women's Studies search. A much larger study would need to be performed using several core periodicals to determine current notable scholars in the field. *Signs* by the nature of how it solicits, reviews, and chooses articles attempts to give a voice to as many scholars in the field as possible. Thus, using *Signs* alone cannot produce a comprehensive list of current authors.

This study served to hold a mirror to the discipline and reflect the richness and diversity that exists within it. A Women's Study collection is valuable to a library for the interdisciplinary nature of the scholarship and the chance to direct scholars in other fields to a variety of views on a single topic. The precision of their searches can be improved by introducing the richness of the studies being conducted by feminist researchers. On the other hand, Women's Studies' scholars require a wide diversity of information with regards to format, currency, and subject matter. A great deal of work remains to be done to improve access to the field, identify core materials, and identify important authors. All of these things would greatly improve the precision of searches for researchers.

ENDNOTES

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[3] Geraldine B. King, 'Women Library Users and Library Users of Traditional Women's Subjects," The Reference Librarian 49/50 (1995): 179-193.
[4] Catherine R. Stimpson, "Editorial," Signs Journal of Women in Culture and Society 1 (Autumn 1975): viii.
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[6] Cheris Kramarae and Dale Spender, Knowledge Explosion: Generations of Feminist Scholarship (New York: Athene Series Teachers College Press, 1992), 3.
[7] Kramarae, 5.
[8] Prichard, 89-103.
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[16] Prithni Nath Kaula, "Women's Studies with Specific Reference to their Role in Librarianship and Networking" Herald of Library Science 29 (July-October, 1990) : 193-200.
[17] Megan Conway et al., "Women's Studies in Academic Collections" Current Studies in Librarianship 19 (Spring/Fall 1995) : 70-84.
[18] Janet Todd, Feminist Literary History, (New York: Routledge, 1988).
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[20] Jean-Pierre V. M. Herubel and Anne L. Buchanan, "Citation Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography," Collection Management 18, nos. ¾ (1994) : 89-137.
[21] Mary Ellen S. Capek, "Post-Tweeds, Pipes, and Testosterone: Perspectives on Feminism, Literary Studies, and the Academy," The Knowledge Explosion: Generations of Feminist Scholarship, (New York: Athena Series Teachers College Press, 1992), 75.
[22] Mary Ellen S. Capek, 75.

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